

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to refuse to air Ted Koppel's reading of the names of the fallen soldiers in Iraq and then be so despicably partisan as to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced for political and "bottom-line" gain we need openness and fairness on our airwaves and a airing of many views...not just the dictatorial owner's views, when, in fact, we, the people, are the owners.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard, and why we need a new FCC chairman. Thank you.